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THE
VIRGINIA MAGAZINE
OF
HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY.

VOL. VIII.

JULY, 1900.

NO. I.

THE INDIANS OF SOUTHERN VIRGINIA,
1650-1711.

DEPOSITIONS IN THE VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA
BOUNDARY CASE.

[CONCLUDED.]

VIRGINIA—ss :

Harry Plumpton, eighty-six years or thereabouts, Deposeth:

That he hath lived in the County now called Nansemond formerly Upper Norfolk about seventy-four years, and y^e after the Right hon^{ble} S^r Wm. Berkeley was made Governor of Virginia, he was amongst diverse others at several times sent out against the Southern Indians, once particularly by land under the Command of Major Gen^l Bennet, and once by water under Colonel Dew,* which to the best of his remembrance was about the year 1646 * * * expedition he well remembers that after they had entered Cow * * * the Sound or as far as the mouth of Weyanoak Creek * * * had a fight with Indians and had

* Colonel Thomas Dew, Nansemond county, member of the House of Burgesses 1642, April, 1652, November, 1652 (when Speaker), July, 1653, November, 1654, elected to Council May 31, 1655.

a man killed by them, and about two years after a peace being concluded with ye Indians, the said Deponent with one Thomas Tuke of the Isle of Wight County & several others made a purchase from the Indians of all the Land from the mouth of Morrattuck river to the mouth of Weyanoak Creek aforesaid, which the Indians then shewed them which the Deponent knew to be the same place where the man above mentioned was killed and lyes (to the best of his judgment & Remembrance) about twenty or twenty-five miles above the mouth of Morrattuck River, but the Deponent never heard the Blackwater, Nottoway or Meherrin River or either of them called by the name of Weyanoak Creek.

HENRY PLUMPTON.

VIRGINIA—ss.:

Robert Lawrence, of Nansemond, aged sixty-nine years, Examined & Sworne, saith:

That about forty-seven years ago this Deponent had a plantation in ye Southwest Side of Chowan River about three or four miles above the mouth of Morrattuck where he lived about seven years, by which means he had Occasion of passing and repassing the Chowan in which he often took notice, & still very well knows a large Creek on the said Southwest side of Chowan commonly called & known both by the English & Indians by the name of Weyanoak Creek, which Creek issueth into Chowan about twenty-five miles above Morrattuck River mouth, and according to the best of this Deponent's Judgment, about twenty miles below the mouth of Maherine River, and this Deponent further saith that he never heard either the Blackwater, Nottoway or Meherine River or any other River or Creek but that above mentioned called by the name of Weyanoak Creek.

ROBERT R. L.* LAWRENCE.

NORTH CAROLINA—ss.:

Francis Tomes, Gent., aged seventy-seven years or thereabouts, according to the form of his Profession, declares:

* R. L. was his mark.

That in or about the year of our Lord 1649 he came into Virg^a & dwelt nine years in Martin's Brandon on the South Side of James River & thence removed to Ware neck in Surry County, And that in or about the year 1661 or 1662 he was one of those men that were sent out under the Command of Capt. Potter to bring the Weyanoak Indians in among the English Inhabitants after the Weyanoak King had been murdered by the Nansemond Indians, And that the Company in their march from Busby's at the head of Upper Chipoaks Creek passed a great Swamp, after that they passed another much larger, then a third a little before they came to Nottoway Indian town, the Names of which Swamps he knew not or at least has forgot. And when they came to Nottoway Town he saw no River but heard Busby or Floud (who were the two Interpreters) Say that the Swamp or branch whereon the Nottoway Town stood was a branch of Wyanoak River. After that they travelled about six or seven miles to the best of his memory, near a southwest course & then came in sight of the Wyanoak Indian Town which was on the South Side of Wyanoak River where they forded over to the Town wherein stood an English built house, in which the King had been shott & an apple Orchard. From thence they went about two or three miles to the Westward where in an elbow of a swamp stood a Fort near which in the Swamp the murdered King was laid on a scaffold & covered with Skins & matts, which I saw. And he further saith that they came back again & crost the River at the Wyanoak Indian Town aforest which he did not understand was called by any other name than the Wyanoak Town. And he further Saith that they then brought the Wyanoaks as farr among the English as Busby's, where he left them, & and that some time after, he can not exactly remember how long, he was appointed one of the persons to see them safe to their Town afores^d on Wyanoak River, which they did: Nor doth he remember that the River on the banks of which the Town stood was called by any other name than Wyanoak, as he ever understood or heard during the time of the travells aforest, neither did he either before or during the time of the afores^d Expeditions ever hear any mention made of Nottoway River. And he further Saith that in the year 1664 or thereabouts, he came to live in North Carolina &

that in his Journey from Wareneck afores^d he passed over a Swamp on the other side of which was the Coppahaunk Indian Town, which Town he passed through, & afterwards before they came to the Nansemond Indian Town they crossed the mouth of the afore^d Swamp as they were informed by the Indians on a large Cyprus tree as they had done before at the Coppahaunk Town, which Swamp at the Coppahaunk Town was called Coppahaunk Swamp, but lower down at their Second crossing it, before they came to Nansemond Indian Town it was called Blackwater. And he also Saith That about five years after his arrivall in North Carolina to the best of his Remembrance, was the first time he heard the name of Nottoway River, but knew not where it was.

FRANCIS TOMES, SEN'R.

September ye 27, 1710.

Declared before me Edw'd Moseley and in the presence of the Commissioners for Virginia.

A Copy Examined pr.: Edrd Moseley.

Exam. of ye Wyanoke Indian Women y^t live at ye Nottoway Towne:

Jenny, Capt. Pearce's Daughter, aged as we suppose about sixty, Betty, older; Mary, about 60 Say that they have heard from theyr fathers & ye old people that the Wyanoke Indians removed from James River to Roanoke River to a place called by ye Wyanoques to-Way-Wink, where they first planted Corne and bought all ye Hunting Ground from thence to the mouth of Roanoke River, Up Chowan River to the mouth of Maherin River, together with all ye Beasts upon ye Land & fish on ye s^d River. From thence they Removed into a forke at the head of a Creek named by Wyanoak Indians, Wicocons, which in ye Wyanoke language signifies a little River or Creek, during theyr abode there their chiefe Towne & fort was in that forke, but they had corn fields in severall places downe ye creeke & along Chowan River, from thence they removed to Warreake and that after having Lived there for some considerable time, the Pochaick Indians fell upon them and killed their King & six other of their Nations, upon which they sent * * to acquaint

the English of their misfortune and they very well remember that ye English came out and guarded them in amongst them near James River where they stayed but a very short time & then returned to Warrecake again, and soon after ther. returne they killed the King & warr caps of the Pochaicks & then went to Cotchawesco y' runs into Ma: Ri: * * * where they stayed almost a whole winter, & from thence the went to the Chowan & there stayed one Sum' & made corne and then they went ye no. side Ma: R: Unoonteh they Planted corne but ye Tucoroora Indians falling on them there killing four of their people, they sent a run' to Informe ye English of it and that there was sev^l come out to fetch them in, and that they stayed amongst the English the remaining part of Summer & ye winter following, and were by the English at the Spring appoynted to go and *

* * on ye South Side of ye Bla: water Swamp where Wat Leshly now lives, and they farther say that they never understood that the Wyanoke Nation ever claimed any other lands but what they bought of the Tucoroora Indians, that is above mentioned, nor never lived at or near ye mouth of Nottoway River, but that they have been told by their old people that the Chowans had corne fields on ye north side Bla: water opposite to Nottoway River, and their nation have ever since they can remember called Nottoway River by that name at the mouth & they never heard it called of any other name—the same of Mèherin River. 7^{ber} ye 22d.

The Exam: of Great Peter, ye Great man of ye Nansemønd Indians, aged above 60:

Sayth that he hath formerly heard from the old men of his Nation that ye Wyanoke removed from James River for fear of ye Eng^l. After Appachanckanouk massacre went to settle at Towaywink upon Roanoke R., the Tuscaroras, who possessed the Lands, demanded upon them what they came there for, the Wyanoke answering they wanted a place to settle upon, the Tuscaroras sold them all ye Lands from thence to ye mouth of Morattuck & up Chowan to Maheerin River, together with all ye Beasts & fishes upon ye Land & in ye water, from thence they removed to Wicocons Creek & Lived in a fort at the head of it

which is surrounded with Myery Swamps & Pocosons, where they lived severall years & planted Corne fields in severall places downe ye creek on both sides & when they were going to Warr having eat up ye Tuckahoes* near their town, they made a fort in a fork at ye head of * * * Creek which Runs into Marienne R., there was much Tuccahoe to subsist their old men & w^o in their absense, which fort about 3 miles from theyr Towne att Wycocons which is the place he always heard from all ye Indians, was called Wyanoke ever since he can remember & he never heard of any other Wyanoke except y^e R. upon Nottoway R., from thence they removed to Ware Keck being under apprehension of danger from other Indians with whom they had quarrelled, where they p^d Indian money to ye Nottoways for ye Priviledge of Liveing there, & he says that he hath always heard the Nottoway River called by that name by all Indians & noe other name ever since he knew it, and afterwards ye potkiak Indians killing theyr king the English carryed them to J. R., afterwards they came out & went to Cotchawesk, from whence they went to ye Chowans & made corne 1 Sommer, & went from thence to Unoonteh where they stayed & planted Corne but soon after the Tuscarooras fell upon them & ye English fetched them in again; afterwards they went out & settled att musketank where Patrick Lashly lives, afterwards when Bacon disturbed the Indians, ye Wyanokes went to their old fort at Cotchawesco near ther old town at Wicocons. He alsoe saith that Maherine River has always ben called by that name by all Indians ever since he hath known or heard of it, he also saith that he hath had the same relation concerning ye Wyanoke Indians from Patop & James, 2 very old Wyanoke Indians which lived at ye Nansemond Indians town, both wth dyed last Spring.

JNO. WALLACE.

7^{br} 23d.

The Examination of Nick, Maj^r, & Sevⁿ of ye old men of ye Maherin Indians 69 & upwards, say:

That the Wyanoke Indians removed from J. River for fear of

*A root much used by the Indians as food—the *Lycoperdon Solidum*, of Linnaeus. See Strachey, p. 121.

ye Resentment of ye Eng^l after ye Massacre & went to Roanoke River to a place called Towawink upon Roanoke R. where they planted Corne (they think) 2 years & from thence they Removed to Wycocone Creek in a fork surrounded with Swamps & myery Pocoson & Lived there about 6 years & Planted Corne in Several places on both Sides of ye creek & that he has heard theyr old men say that 2 Tuscarorra Kings one called Nicotanwatts & the other called Corronwhankcokek told them that they had sold the Wyanoke Indians all the Lands to ye Southward of Cotchawhesco creek & upon Wycocons Creek & on ye N. side of Roanoke R. from ye heads of those Creeks Downward & that they have heard both from theyr ancestors & ye Tuscaroras that these lands did really belong to these Kings; they alsoe say that they have heard from theyr ancestors that they went from thence to Wareckeck upon Nottaway R. & that they never heard either from theyr ancestors or since they can remember any other name for it then Nottoway from ye mouth upwards, and that theyr nation called the Creek Wycocoms Quauraurawke but the Indian fields upon the Creek they called the Wyanoke fields, and they never heard of any other place called Wyanoke Except at James River & that at Roanoke, & that they never knew nor heard that the Wyanoke Indians ever Lived at ye mouth of Nottoway River or oposite to it on ye other side black water nor any other Indians Except ye Chowans, nor ever heard of any Wyanoke neck thereabouts, & they say that they have heard there were such Indians as ye Yawpines but they lived soe farr off that they never saw any of them nor ever heard that they ever claimed the Lands betwixt Roanoke & Maherrin River. They alsoe say that Maherin River always went by that name.

VIRG'A: NANSEMOND INDIAN TOWN—ss.

Thom Green & others, old men of ye Nottoway Indians, aged as we suppose, about seventy-five & ye others above 60, after being charged not to tell any untruth for fear of displeasing or in hopes of pleaseing any body & being charged to tell the whole truth being interrogated say as follows, vizt.:

Quest. 1. What doe you know of ye Wyanok Indians leave-

ing James River & Whither did they goe & how long did they live at each place?

Ans. 1. The Wyanoke Indians Left Wyanoke on James River after the Massacre for fear of ye English, & went to Warick & planted Corne, wither the English following them they Removed to Roanoke River to a place called by ye Tuscarora & Nottoways Chochanoh, by the Wyanoke named Towawink, & there they lived about three year, from whence they removed to a folk at the head of a Creek to ye Southward of Maherink River, called by ye Nottoways Quaurauraghkek & some of them Lived at a place called Cotchawesco, at ye head of the Southern branch of Potticosy Creek, a little way from Auhotsky which is the place where they lived in Quanrankeck where they lived about six or eight year, from thence they removed to Warekeck on Nottoway river, haveing purchased the priviledge of liveing there of the Nottoway for severall sums of theyr money, which they very often paid them, where they lived till their King was killed by ye Potchkiack Indians which they believe was about Eighteen years afterwards, they went to the three Creeks & stayed there a little while till they killed the potckiack King & then they went to Auhots where they stayed about 3 or four winters, but made very litte corne for fear of ye Tuscarooras & potchiacks, from thence they went to Unoonteh upon Maherrin River, where they stayed about 2 months when the Tuscarooras fell upon them, after that they lived at Black water where Watt Lashly now lives, from thence they removed to the town where they lived last.

Q. 2nd. What doe you know or have heard of ye Wyanokes buying the Land about Wycocons Creek & of whom?

Ans. 2. Wee have heard our ancestors say that the Wyanokes when they went to Towawink bought all the neck of Land betwixt Cotchawesco Chawan & Roanoke River, all ye Beasts on ye Land & all the fish in ye waters of the Tuscaroras.

Q. 3. Did you ever hear the Wyanokes claimed any other Land as their owne?

Answer.. Noe.

Q. 4. Did you ever know or hear the Wyanoke Indians Lived Lower on Nottoway River than Warekeck?

Ans. Noe, but a family or 2 Lived on ye N. Side of ye River above attsamoosick Swamp.

Q. Did you ever know or hear Nottoway River called by any other name in any part of it.

Ans. Noe.

Q. 6. Did you ever know or hear a part of Maherrink River called by any other name.

Answer. Noe.

Quest. 7. Did you ever know or hear Wycocons Creek called Wyanoke Creek?

Ans. Our fathers called it Quarauraghkek Creek before the Wyanokes lived there but since our nation call it Wyanoke Creek.

Ques. 8. Had the Wyanokes any old fields on ye navigable part of Wycocon creek?

Ans. 8. They had a plantation on each side of ye head of ye creek where Canoes can come and severall on ye branches lower downe.

Quest. 9. Doe you know any thing of the Wyanokes goeing to Cotchowesco again in Bacon's Rebellion.

Ans. 9. They did goe thither for they were afraid of Sq' Bacon & therefore were resolved to goe to theyr owne land.

This examination Taken in the presence of Edw'd Moseley & John Lawson, Esq., at ye Nansemond Towne May ye 23d, 1711, before us,

P. L.

N. H.

VIRG'A: NANSEMOND TOWN—ss.

Nick Maj' & other old man of the Maheerink Indians, aged as we suppose about sixty years, being examined & strictly forbidden to tell any untruth in hopes to please or fear of displeasing anybody, & charged to tell the whole truth, say:

That they have been informed by their ancestors that the Wyanoke Indians removed from Wyanoke on James River, for fear of Resentment of ye English after ye Massacre, a little before Appachancanough was taken, & went to Wareeks, where they planted Corne, but the English Driveing them from thence

they went to Roanoke River to a place called by ye Wyanoaks Towawink, where they planted corne & lived about 2 year & then Removed to ye Creek to ye Southward of Maherine River, called by ye Wyanokes Wicoconne & seated in a forke of the creeke surrounded with swamp & Myery Pocosons & Lived there & some of them at a place called Cotchawesco, about 2 miles from it about seven years & planted corn on both sides the creek, & that they have heard theyr old men say that two Tuscarora Kings, one named Nicotaw Warr, and the other named Corrowhaughcoheh, and one Tascaroora Queen called Ervets-ahkekeh (which two kings & queen Nich Maj' knew very well), told them that they had sold the Wyanoke Indians all the land to ye Southward of Cotchawesco Creek & upon Wycocons Creek & on ye North side of Roanoke River from the heads of those creeks down ward to Chowan, and that they have heard both from theyr ancestors & the Tuscarooras that these Lands did Really belong to these Kings; they also say that the Wyanokes went from Wycocon to Cotchawesco to Wareekeck upon Nottoway River where they lived a long time. Nich' Major says he was a likely boy when the Wyanokes removed to Wareekeck & that the Nottoway King placed them there, which place was then called Ro no tough; that after Wyanokes came to Live there the Town was Wyanohkinke, but the Wyanokes called the place where the Towne stood Wareekeck, and alsoe when the Wyanokes lived on Black water theyr Towne was called Wyanokekink, & Wareekeck was noe more called Wyanohkink after they left it; but they never heard from their ancestors or any other since they can remember that any part of the River was called by any other name than Nottoway, and they say that theyr nation in theyr Language called the creek now called Wycoscon Quo rau rauh keh, but the fields upon the creek they called Wyanokkeek Utaway, which signify the Wyanoke Indians old fields & they never heard of any other places called Wianoke except that at James River & that at Roanoke. They say they doe not know that ye Wyanoke Indians lived on the navigable part of Wicocons Creek or had fields thereupon, and that they never knew nor heard that the Wyanoke Indians ever Lived at ye mouth of Nottoway or opposite to it nor any other Indians except the Chowan & Nansemund or Potchiack Indians, but Nich

Maj^r has heard that one family of Wyanokes lived some where on the North side of Chowan near the mouth of Nottoway. They say they have heard there were such Indians as ye Yawpins but they lived soe farr off that they never saw any of them nor ever heard that they ever claimed any of the Lands betwixt Roanoke & Maherin Rivers. They say, also, that Maherrin River always went by that name & by noe other that they ever heard; they also say that the Wyanoke went again to Catchanescoh.

This examination taken in the presence of Mr. Edw'd Moseley & Mr. John Lawson, Commis^s appoynted for the settlement of the Boundaries between Virg^a & Carolina.

P. L.
N. H.

May 22, 1711.

**An Inventory of the Estate of the Right Honorable
Thomas Lord Fairfax, Deceased.***

Cash in Specie & paper currency £47,337—3—9.

Silver Plate by weight 25 lbs. 10½ oz.

A Gold watch, a silver watch, 3 Seals set in gold, 12 Gold mourning rings.

Wearing apparel.

23 shirts, 25 stockings, 26 night caps, 7 Pair silk stockings, 16 do. Thread & cotton do., 6 silk handkerchiefs, 4 black cloath coats, 3 Do. Do. waist coats, 1 Do. Silk Do., 3 Pair Black cloath Breeches, a damask night Gown, a suit of brown Coloured Silk, a suit of Velvet, a suit of blue cloth, a suit of Drab cloth, a blue Land Frock, a pair of blue cloath Breeches, a green Damask Laced waistcoat, a scarlet laced cloath Do., a pink damask Laced Do., a Gold Tissue Do., a brown Laced cloath coat, a Do. Do. Do. waistcoat, a Do. Do. Do. coat, a Green Silk laced waistcoat,

* We are obliged to Mr. J. L. Miller, Pt. Pleasant, West Virginia, for a copy of this inventory.